

Abstract

The thesis titled “Internet and Copyright” focuses on the effects of copyright in the Internet environment and challenges that the Internet represents for traditional copyright. The main purpose of this thesis is to define the most frequent ways of use of author’s works and exercise of copyright on the Internet and to analyse the current Czech and European legislation, to what extent it is applicable to and suitable for common situations in the Internet environment and what are the weaknesses of the legislation.

The first two chapters serve as the introduction to the issue. While the first chapter is devoted to the Internet phenomenon in respect of its definition, legal regulation, significance at the present time and current issues related to its use, the second chapter includes some basic knowledge of copyright that is essential to understand for the purposes of further text of the thesis – in particular the definition of the author’s work, the system of exceptions and limitations of copyright and the most important international and EU copyright laws.

The third chapter could be considered the essential part of the thesis. This chapter first presents what forms of works we can find on the Internet, underlining the fact that the Internet as a whole is primarily composed of results of creative activities. The chapter then describes and analyses the most frequent methods of use of works on the Internet, both primary (upload, share and download) and specific, in which the primary methods usually combine (file hosting, P2P, streaming, linking).

Having introduced the main methods of use of works on the Internet, the fourth chapter is focused on ways using the work on the Internet lawfully, as well as the most frequent cases of and motives behind infringement of copyright, commonly known under the expression Internet piracy. Finally, this chapter illustrates different state approaches to this issue.

The fifth and final chapter concludes the thesis with an overview of the current legislation development in European Union in a quest to revise copyright and with a look forward. This part contains relatively critical analysis of the currently pending proposal for a Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market and is concluded by *de lege ferenda* consideration on possible ways to adapt traditional copyright to the needs of the information society.

The most significant findings of the thesis are summarized in the Conclusion, which underlines the opinion of the author on the need for copyright update in the digital era.